

been able to make such career dreams a reality for many young Puerto Ricans and other Hispanics.

ASPIRA takes pride in knowing that its efforts have been successful as it sees former ASPIRANTES graduate from prestigious medical schools and recognized professional career programs, and, in keeping with one of our main goals, return to the community and invest in its growth and health.



Financial Aid Services

For the second consecutive year ASPIRA provided professional management and leadership to the Mayor's Scholarship Program. Now in its third year, this program has allowed 479 recipients (of nearly 1500 applicants) to receive \$233,000 in support of their college education.

In addition, we have initiated outreach efforts at some 70 selected high schools to seek out college-bound students. These efforts will enable us to provide both individual and group counseling about the Mayor's Scholarship and ASPIRA scholarships and financial aid resources in general.

Special Services

For fourteen years, our Special Services Program has provided remedial and other support services for college students with academic potential, but who are in need of assistance to continue their education. Program participants receive basic skills instruction, tutorial services, and academic and financial aid counseling.

During the 1980-81 school year this program serviced 400 students at various city colleges and has been recognized for its effectiveness in keeping students in school.

Career/Vocational Exploration

ASPIRA sponsors career/vocational exploration programs for in-school youth and those who have dropped out. In 1980-81, just over 350 youths from the South Bronx and the Williamsburg/Bushwick areas of Brooklyn took part in these efforts. Two hundred high school youths participating in our summer projects earned high school credit upon successful completion of our vocational exploration curriculum.

ASPIRA also operated Youth Employment and Training programs offering vocational skills and free job placement to participants. Last year nearly 70% of students enrolled in this program successfully entered the job market, went on to technical training, or decided to pursue a college education, a decision due in large measure to ASPIRA's guidance.

ASPIRA of New York gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the following during 1980-81:

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ASPIRA OF NEW YORK INC.
310 EAST 148th STREET
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If you wish to make a tax deductible donation to ASPIRA of New York and help support our services to youth, please fill out the blank below and return with your contribution. Thank you.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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ASPIRA OF NEW YORK

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 1980 to
June 30, 1981

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Message Of The Executive Director

1980-81 was a significant year in the history of ASPIRA of New York. It was a year marked by major changes in traditional forms of government support to non-profit agencies and, consequently, a time for ASPIRA to take new and creative approaches to insure the maximum level of service delivery for the youth we serve.

We implemented measures designed to reduce administrative costs, increase efficiency and otherwise allow the agency to operate in a more cost-effective manner. Some measures included planned attrition, the relocation of our main office to the Bronx, and consolidation of other agency facilities. Making these administrative changes has permitted us to dedicate limited resources on program and the delivery services.

ASPIRA's services are needed today, now more than ever. According to the Chancellor's 1980 Annual report for New York City Public Schools, Puerto Rican and other Hispanic youth account for more than 29 percent of the total enrollment. Yet, there has been a significant decrease in the services available to minority youth—at a time when youth unemployment and drop-out figures are at record high levels.

In 1981-82, ASPIRA of New York renews its commitment to meeting the educational needs of the youth of our community. In this way we hope to insure the availability in the long term of a trained, educated and dedicated core of Puerto Rican and Hispanic leaders for tomorrow.



Roberto M. Soto
Executive Director
April, 1982

What is ASPIRA?

ASPIRA of New York, Inc. is the oldest and largest non-profit agency serving Puerto Rican and other Hispanic youth. Since its founding 20 years ago in 1961, ASPIRA has been dedicated to the social advancement of the Hispanic community through the education and training of its youth, providing them with a network of programs and services designed to foster self-confidence, the ability to succeed in education and related pursuits, and an appreciation of their cultural heritage.



ASPIRA works with these young people at a critical time, the high school years, when many may drop out of school and settle for low-paying jobs. Others are uncertain about what career decisions to make. For many such youths, ASPIRA, with its varied programs and services, is the one opportunity to turn their lives around.

Leadership Development

The core of ASPIRA's programming involves Leadership Development. ASPIRA has long believed that for the community to advance, it is essential that a core of educated, motivated and committed individuals be created to assume leadership roles in the civic, economic and cultural life of the Hispanic community and that of the society-at-large.

Leadership Development, the oldest ASPIRA program, was created to meet this need. Through ASPIRA clubs located in various high schools, ASPIRANTES receive their first taste of participatory democracy and plan their own activities. These clubs motivate their members:

- to recognize the importance of education as the instrument to attain knowledge, skill, excellence and success;
- to recognize the importance of planning a career with a defined objective in mind;
- to learn and understand their cultural heritage, while developing an appreciation for the life in which they live; and
- to stimulate their intellectual curiosity by providing them with social recreation and cultural activities.

One of the most successful components of this program has been our Health Careers unit, which focuses on enabling young Hispanics to enter undergraduate and graduate level training programs in medicine, dentistry and allied health fields. Over the past decade ASPIRA has